MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, February 9, 2014
5th Epiphany Sunday

Scandalous Stories: Abraham & Isaac

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Live Boldly Testimony

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel
Office Hours:
Monday: 8am-2pm
Tues-Thurs: 8am-1pm

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is **Wednesday at noon** – email to office@mcclv.org

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form** in order to get put on the calendar. Write to office@mcclv.org more information.

Looking for low-cost space for you birthday party or family celebration? Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall and kitchen for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or e-mail office@mcclv.org for more

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!
Search **MCC Lehigh Valley.** All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS
"PEOPLE OF FAITH" VIDEOS

Be a part of MCCLV's 2014 Wednesday Night Lenten Video Series and **FREE Dinners**! The series surveys the history of Christianity in the United States & the weekly 30-minute video brings up interesting questions for reflection and discussion.

March 12th, 7:00 PM "From Monarchs to the Marketplace"
- Ministry Coordinators providing meal

March 19th, 7:00 PM "Many Mansions"
- Board of Directors providing meal

March 26th, 7:00 PM "Rebels with a Cause"
- Retirees providing meal

April 2nd, 7:00 PM "Challenges and Change"
- Choir providing meal

April 9th, 7:00 PM "Home Grown Saints"
- 20s30s providing meal

April 16th, 7:00 PM "The Future of Christianity"
- Worship Team providing meal

RSVP to **office@mcclv.org** or 610-709-8800. All ages are welcome.

"Gracey" for You Valentine's Dance
Saturday, February 15, 6:30-10:30pm
At Grace United Church of Christ
1947 New Holland Pike, Eden (On Route 23 east of Lancaster). Featuring the live band Fierce.
Welcome to **ALL** adults, single or partnered.
Admission is $6 a ticket or two tickets for $10.
Light Refreshments will be available. A portion of the proceeds benefits The Tree House Project at Alder Health Services.
For more dance info call (717) 397-1012 or e-mail graceucc@comcast.net. The tree House Project can be found at www.thetreehuseatalder.org.

Retirees are Gathering

Retirees meet this coming Tuesday February 11th, 9:30am at MCCLV. Come and share some "golden" time with similarly blessed retirees!

For more information, contact
Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org
or Elaine Ely,
pastor_elaine@yahoo.com

Children's Book Fund Raising Drive

MCCLV will be collecting **NEW** books for sick children from the beginning of January until the end of February. Books needed for all ages of children and teens. They must be unwrapped, non-violent and non-religious. Books will go to the "Sick Kids Can Read" program at Lehigh Valley Hospital. They can be placed in the painted box in Fellowship Hall.

Thank You Corner

MCCLV Thanks Charlie Cramer
And Michaela Rivera

for their servant hearts and hospitality each Sunday in setting up, serving and cleaning up for MCCLV's fellowship hour. They make it happen and MCCLV is very grateful to them and the other hospitality volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

God Bless you and Thank you both!

WEDNESDAY

MAKE WEDNESDAY YOUR WORD DAY! - - -

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study gathers for an hour at MCCLV. In this once-a-week Bible Study, participants read through a portion of the Bible each week. There is no homework or additional reading. The classes are facilitated by Rev. Goudy - beginning, intermediate and advanced Bible students are all welcome. The schedule is below:

February 12: **Now What?** (Acts 20-22)

February 19: **Now What?** (Acts 23-25)

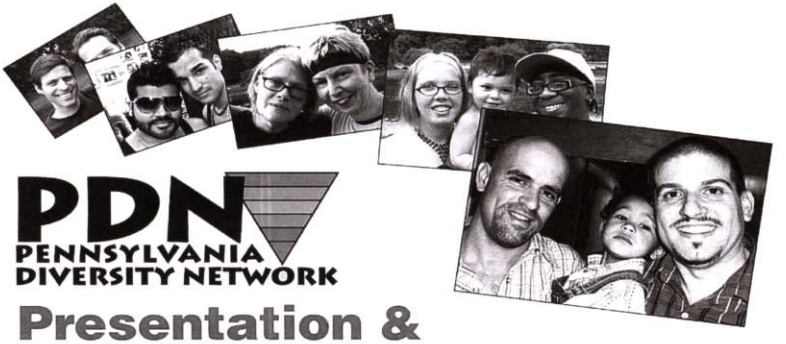
February 26: **Now What?** (Acts 26-28)

March 5: **MCCLV's Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season will be a dinner and video series. The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study will return in May with a study on Romans titled: "*Why Do Evangelicals Love Romans So Much They Want to Marry It*?"

Soloist Auditions for Worship Services will take place on Sunday, February 16, 2014 from 1:00-2:30PM. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome. See Brian Jones or e-mail him at brian.jones@mcclv.org for more information.

PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK
Congratulates the couples who are marrying today!



PDN
PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

Presentation & Photo Project Exhibition

Feb. 10-14, 2014
Celebration of Awareness, Advocacy and Equality

Speaker Presentation/ Opening Ceremony for the Photo Project

Monday, Feb. 10, 2014 2 p.m.
Community Services Center, Rooms CSC 203/205

Liz Bradbury,
Executive Director of PA Diversity Network
LGBT Coming Out Day Presentation and Photo Project Exhibition - a presentation on the LGBT Photo Project - Facing Inequality: Issues and Advocacy for Students, Faculty and Staff

Photo Project Display

National Award Winning Photo Project: 800 Same-Sex Couples Facing Inequality

The Photo Project will be on display in Community Service Center Lobby from Feb. 10-14, 2014.

This program is being sponsored by the LCCC PRIDE Club and is funded by the Student Government Association.

Lehigh Carbon COMMUNITY COLLEGE

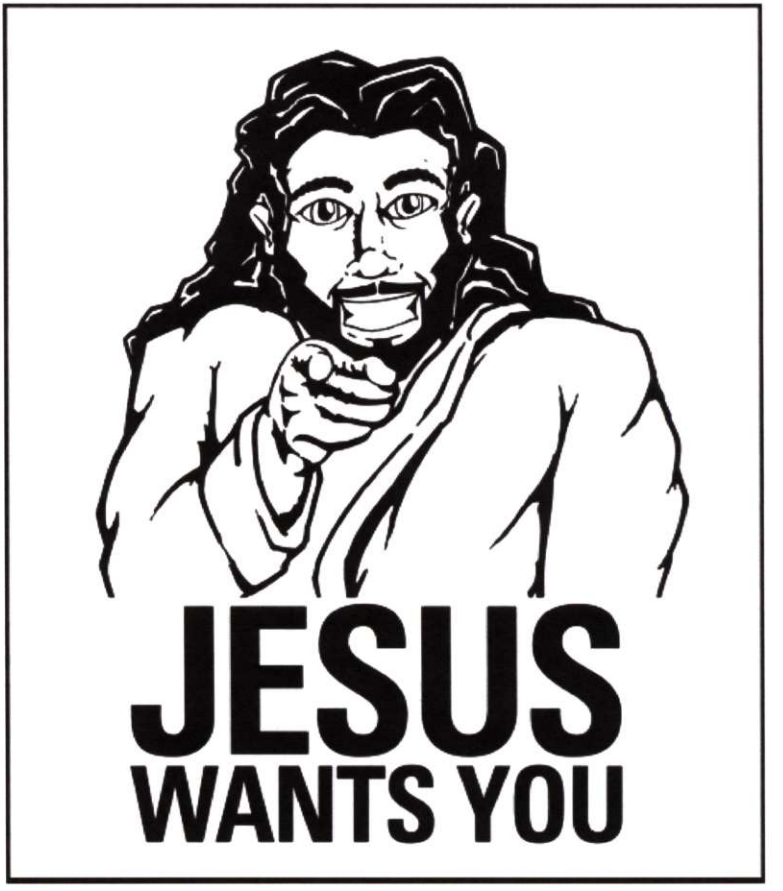
PDN encourages committed same-sex couples who want to legally marry to go to a marriage equality state & do so. See how at our web site at: www.padiversity.org. Even living in PA, legally married couples get many federal rights including: Immigration, Pension, Federal Tax filing, No taxes on benefits, & more. And your marriage will be recognized in PA when marriage equality is legal here, you will not have to marry again. Call PDN for more information: 610-432-5449.

Are you willing to carry God's word to those in need?

If so, MCCLV wants **YOU** to join **"The E-Team"** Evangelism Team, for bar outreach and other social gatherings.

Contact Cindy Rodriguez for more information at: cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

"Therefore go and make Disciples of all nations."
~Matthew 19~



MCCLV is collecting donations for food cards every 2nd Sunday of the month after the worship service. Consider making a donation after worship **today** to help those in great need of reducing their grocery store bills. Questions? Contact Michaela Rivera (pictured at right) or e-mail her at rednegshart@aim.com

Food Pantry

Contributions are always needed for MCCLV's Food Panty, bring in a donation whenever you are able. Volunteers are also for the Pantry. To be a part, contact Judy McNally (pictured at left) or e-mail at: njm0@lehigh.edu

HIV Positive Support Group

A HIV support group at MCCLV has started, it will be the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm. The focus will be on living a positive life with HIV. Thus, the group will be called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group will be limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. The group will also have scheduled meetings for partners to attend, and a possibility of open meetings in the future for those interested in learning how to support and help those coping with this disease. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net

MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!

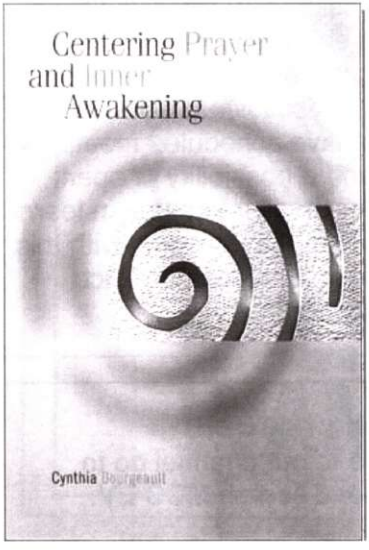
To view and subscribe to our channel go to **www.youtube.com** and search **MCC LV**.

WELD AT MCCLV!

Interested in becoming a member of the church? Consider participating in the WELD process, a four-part membership course at MCCLV. Classes meet on **March 4, 11, 18 and 25th at 7:00 PM** here at the church. The purpose of WELD is to "weld" participants closer to God and to their brothers and sisters in Christ. Classes also include a basic introduction to discipleship and Metropolitan Community Churches.

There will be an informational session on **Sunday, March 2nd immediately** following worship to hear more about the process.

See **Emma Marrero** for more information!



Are You Feeling Off-Center?

Is your life feeling a bit off-kilter or are you in need of a deeper way of prayer? In May, June and July MCCLV will offer Centering Prayer at 6:00PM on Wednesdays. It would be helpful (though not required) if participants would read Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault's book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" before May. Questions? See Rev. Goudy or e-mail her at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!

The Convergence Project

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

February 16 How Not To Be A Control Freak: Honor & Shame in the Biblical Texts
February 23 Banned from Sunday School: Sexualities in Scripture
March 2 Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part I
March 9 Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part II
March 16 Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part I
March 23 Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II
March 30 Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus
April 6 Reading Scripture from the Margins
April 13 Finding Ourselves and Our Communities in Scripture

Ash Wednesday Service will be held March 5 at MCCLV at 7:00pm

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

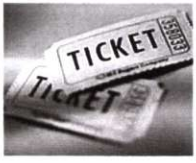
A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

" I believe deeply that we must find, all of us together, a new spirituality. This new concept ought to be elaborated alongside the religions, in such a way that all people of good will could adhere to it."

(His Holiness the Fourteenth Dali Lama)

Does Music Inspire You to Move?
Do You Use Music to Express Yourself, to Pray, to Worship?
If You're Interested in Exploring Music and Movement
See Carolyn Gaffney or email cargaff@gmail.com

MCCLV and St. Andrews Episcopal Church will be co-sponsoring a fundraising raffle to benefit homeless men in the Lehigh Valley. Raffle tickets will be sold during fellowship hour: 3 tickets for each $1.00 donation. Prizes consist of a free haircut by Ruben, a hair care basket, a Zumba lesson and others. Donation of these items will be accepted: blankets, men's socks – all sizes, and men's personal care items. Donations will be distributed during Friday evening dinners provided to these men on January 31, February 28 and March 28, 2014. Volunteers are needed for multiple areas. For more information please contact Saadia Negron or Virginia Maurer after worship.



FORGE

a stronger relationship with Christ and one another - Join a FORGE group! Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies, and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically (**SOUTH**, **EAST** and **WEST**) to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it's not the one nearest you.

Contact group leaders to learn more!

FORGE Group South - *Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30pm*
2nd Wednesday - Loreli Bauer's home in Perkasie
4th Wednesday - Elaine Ely's home in Quakertown

FORGE South Leaders:
Loreli Bauer **lorelibauer@aol.com**
Elaine Ely **pastor_elaine@yahoo.com**

FORGE Group East - *Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00pm at Barb Baus's home in Bethlehem*

FORGE East Leader—Barb Baus babaus@hotmail.com

FORGE Group West - *Meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10:00am*
2nd Saturday– Scott George's home in Allentown
4th Saturday - Ron Smith's home in Allentown

FORGE West Leaders:
Scott George **smgmcclv@gmail.com**
Ron Smith **ron.smith@mcclv.org**

UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

6th Epiphany: February 16, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Numbers 20:2-13
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Scandalous Stories: Moses"**

7th Epiphany: February 23, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Mark 2:13-17
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Biggest Scandal of All: Jesus"**

Transfiguration Sunday: March 2, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-9
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Sustaining the Mountaintop"**

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 2014 @ 7:00pm
Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-6
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: "**The Pursuit of Holiness I: First Mention of Holy**"

1st Lent: March 9, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Readings: Leviticus 10:8-10 & Ezekiel 22:23-31
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness II: Not Common"**

2nd Lent: March 16, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:5-12
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness III: Joy"**

Today's Scripture Readings:

Genesis 12:10-15
Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land. When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, 'I know well that you are a woman beautiful in appearance; and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, "This is his wife"; then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account.' When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. When the officials of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

Genesis 20:1-7
From there Abraham journeyed towards the region of the Negeb, and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While residing in Gerar as an alien, Abraham said of his wife Sarah, 'She is my sister.' And King Abimelech of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, 'You are about to die because of the woman whom you have taken; for she is a married woman.' Now Abimelech had not approached her; so he said, 'Lord, will you destroy an innocent people? Did he not himself say to me, "She is my sister"? And she herself said, "He is my brother." I did this in the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands.' Then God said to him in the dream, 'Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart; furthermore it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. Now then, return the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all that are yours.'

Genesis 26:6-11
So Isaac settled in Gerar. When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, 'She is my sister'; for he was afraid to say, 'My wife,' thinking, 'or else the men of the place might kill me for the sake of Rebekah, because she is attractive in appearance.' When Isaac had been there a long time, King Abimelech of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw him fondling his wife Rebekah. So Abimelech called for Isaac, and said, 'So she is your wife! Why then did you say, "She is my sister"?' Isaac said to him, 'Because I thought I might die because of her.' Abimelech said, 'What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.' So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, 'Whoever touches this man or his wife shall be put to death.'

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98

Date	Attendance	Giving
2/2/2014	72	$2,815.46
1/26/2014	78	$3,007.59
1/19/2014	89	$2,000.86
1/12/2014	111	$2,123.00

MCCLV Year-to-Date Budget: $19,584.90
MCCLV Year-to-Date Offering: $17,294.18
Surplus or Deficit? ..... -$2,290.72 (Deficit)

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:
Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org
20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality, Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:
If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy
Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:
Cynthia Rodriguez | cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org
Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank and Messengers Art Ministry

Media & Marketing:
If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy
Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:
Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre, Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith
MCCLV Board meets the second Sunday of every month.
If you would like an item included on their agenda see any Board Member

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby, Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org
Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org
Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org